

of the Air Force and incorporate space technology into military operations. She led the Department's remarkable success in overhauling its business practices, including major initiatives in acquisition reform, outsourcing, and privatization to increase efficiency and make maximum use of scarce funds. She has also taken the lead in strengthening the Nation's role in space, by working effectively with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the private space sector.

Above all, Secretary Widnall has done her best to care for Air Force members and their families. Her emphasis on equal opportunity and her skillful and tireless pursuit of quality of life issues kept morale high during a period of significant and far-reaching change.

Secretary Widnall brought an outstanding background to her current position. Her accomplishments include many years as a professor of aeronautics and astronautics and also as associate provost at MIT. She has earned international recognition for her work in fluid dynamics, and has had extensive service on numerous boards, panels, and committees in government, industry, and the academic world.

In her years as Secretary, Sheila Widnall has set a high standard of leadership and service to the Nation. I know I am joined by my colleagues in Congress and a grateful Nation in thanking her for her dedication and distinguished service to our country, and I wish her well in the years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM DAVIDSON

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding business leader and philanthropist from my home State of Michigan, William Davidson. Bill Davidson has been chosen as the honorary chair of the Council of Michigan Foundations 25th annual conference, which takes place November 5-7, 1997.

Bill Davidson is one of Michigan's most renowned businesspeople. He is the chairman of the board and president of Guardian Industries, an international manufacturer of flat glass products for the construction and automotive industries. He is also the majority owner of the Detroit Pistons Basketball Club, the Palace Sports and Entertainment Arena, Pine Knob Music Theater, the Detroit Vipers hockey team, and the Detroit Neon soccer team.

Bill has received numerous citations and awards for his philanthropic activities, his contributions to the glass industry, and professional sports. Some of these awards include the Phoenix Award, an honorary doctoral degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, the Order of Merit in Labor of the Highest Class from the

Republic of Venezuela, the Fred M. Butzel Award for Distinguished Community Service, and membership in the Michigan Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

One of Bill Davidson's most remarkable traits is his commitment to improving the lives of people throughout the world. Giving is an important part of his life, and he is known locally and nationally for his philanthropic vision and generosity. He does not take success for granted and is most thankful for what he has achieved. As a result, he chooses to support institutions and programs which help develop the minds and bodies of tomorrow's leaders.

It is this commitment to philanthropy that was the guiding force for his creation of the Pistons-Palace Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Detroit Pistons and the Palace of Auburn Hills. Bill Davidson and the foundation have contributed millions of dollars to support meaningful youth and recreation programs throughout metropolitan Detroit. The Pistons-Palace Foundation is quickly gaining recognition in the National Basketball Association and receiving national attention for its work in the city of Detroit, specifically through the PARK program, which works to revitalize neighborhoods by refurbishing and renovating parks and installing outdoor basketball courts and other recreation equipment at sites.

Developing tomorrow's leaders through higher education is another of Bill Davidson's highest priorities. He contributed \$35 million to establish the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan School of Business Administration. The institute strives to help countries as they make the transition to free market economies and to assist companies which seek to operate successfully in those countries. To that end, the Davidson Institute offers seminars for business and government leaders from countries with economies in transition and develops faculty fellows who teach or work in those countries upon completion of the program. Bill also established the world's first educational institution entirely dedicated to the international management of technology-based companies at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. Bill Davidson's commitment to keeping Jewish education strong led him to help to create graduate school of Jewish education at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City, which trains educators for North America.

It is not possible to do Bill Davidson's lifetime of good works justice in a few words, but there is no doubt among anyone who knows of him that he is a truly remarkable person. His dedication to improving people's lives and the unpretentious way he goes about that quest has earned him respect and gratitude from countless people around the world. Millions more who will never know of Bill Davidson have benefited from his efforts and accomplishments.

Mr. President, all of us in this body can learn from the examples set by Bill Davidson. I know my colleagues will join me in offering him congratulations and best wishes on this important occasion.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### REPORT OF THE CANCELLATION OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY (97-72)—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 77

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, received on November 1, 1997, together with an accompanying report, referred jointly, pursuant to Public Law 93-344, to the Committee on Appropriations and to the Committee on the Budget.

##### *To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998" (Public Law 105-66; H.R. 2169). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, November 1, 1997.

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